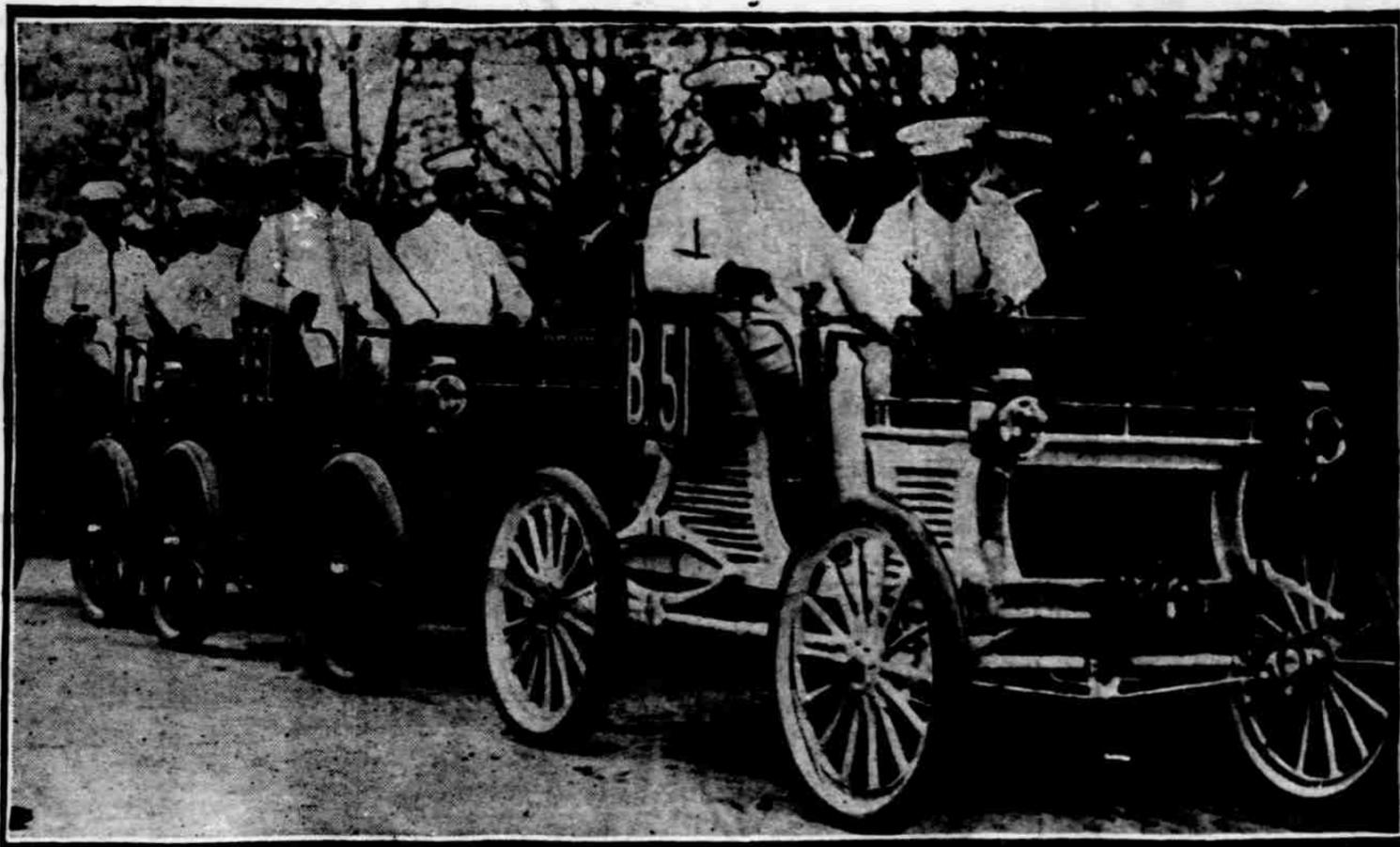


# AUTO FLYERS TO HAVE TRACK OF THEIR OWN



LINING UP TO START.

PHOTO BY MARK

MILLIONAIRES LINING UP FOR AN ENDURANCE RACE.

If the plans of several of America's most prominent millionaire automobile enthusiasts are carried to a successful conclusion, America will possess a magnificent national auto racing track, the finest auto race course in the world. Here big national and international speed and endurance contests will be held and America will probably become the home of big automobiling. The plans are a result of the national movement now under way to put a stop to the speeding of the death-dealing flyers on the public highways of America. The American Automobile association has endorsed this popular movement and the checkmated millionaires will now have to erect their own speedway or see the demise of automobile racing in this country.

## Greatest Fraud of a Century

This story came out at the time of the Martinique disaster, in which 40,000 lives were lost to France. But the Parisian newspapers put the Martinique news on an inside page and printed this story on their most conspicuous columns. Nor were the Parisians necessarily heartless in showing less concern in the volcanic eruption 3,000 miles away than in the social eruption in their own town. A toy torpedo beneath your own feet may cause a greater perturbation of nerve ganglia than the explosion of a Krakatoa half around the earth.

The story, first of all, will be told as it was believed for 20 years by the leading lawyers and bankers of France; and, finally, the real truth of the case will appear. Sometime in the '70s an American millionaire named Robert Henry Crawford was traveling in the south of France. At a certain railroad station he was the victim of a stroke of apoplexy. A Toulouse peasant girl, Therese Daurignac, who was about to enter a third class carriage, noticed Crawford's collapse and, at some personal risk, jumped into his compartment where she succeeded in restoring him to consciousness, perhaps saving his life. After that she remained with him and nursed the man during his convalescence. Sometime between 1878 and 1883 the American millionaire died and according to a will dated at Nice, September 6, 1877, he bequeathed his fortune of \$20,000,000 to Therese Daurignac. This immense fortune at once raised the status of the Daurignac family, which changed its name to d'Aurignac, while the ship's Therese soon was married to the son of M. Humbert, a native of Toulous, one of the greatest jurists of his generation. He was for some time the French minister of justice. The younger Humbert, husband of Therese, has been for many years the representative of the

department of Seine-et-Oise in the French chamber of deputies. After the marriage took place the couple established themselves in a splendid Paris residence, and also bought a magnificent country place near Narbonne.

But the Humberts were not left in undisturbed possession of the American millionaire's money. One day madame received a call from two strangers, named Robert Crawford and Henry Crawford, who said they were nephews of the lamented Robert Henry Crawford. As might be expected, they promptly produced a second will, dated the same day in the same year as the other will, which provided that each nephew should receive a third of the estate, while the other third should go, not to Therese, who had become the beautiful Mme. Humbert, but to her sister, Marie. It was stipulated, however, that the two nephews should invest in France enough money to provide Therese a monthly allowance of \$6,000 during her lifetime. Of course the beautiful Mme. Humbert was in despair. There she was, threatened with an allowance cut down to \$6,000 a month or facing expensive litigation in the courts in behalf of her rights. Why won't American millionaires be satisfied with one will—at least one will a day? The Crawford nephews, however, proved very accommodating. They were already millionaires in their own right, and did not want more money—which is so like Americans. But they did want to fulfill their uncle's wish. That was for a Crawford to marry a d'Aurignac. "Just give your consent and we will not contest the will," they said. So it was arranged that both nephews should be suitors for the hand of the fair Marie, the sister of Mme. Humbert, who in good time should choose between them and link forever the house of Crawford and d'Aurignac. Meanwhile, it was agreed that the Crawford fortune, consisting of gilt-edged bonds, should be placed in a safe deposit vault, and that Mme. Humbert, pending Marie's choice of a husband, should draw an income of \$60,000 a

year. If Mme. Humbert, who was to have the custody of the key to the safe, should take more than her stipulated allowance she would forfeit all her rights.

The sister Marie now became the strategic point in the affair. She could not decide which nephew to marry. The nephews began a series of lawsuits to compel her to make choice, but Marie is now over forty and still unwed. As the 20,000,000 was tied up, pending the execution of the agreement, Mme. Humbert soon began a series of loans from bankers and her debts to tradesmen assumed enormous proportions. Her promises to pay were accepted generally, for they were endorsed by Marie, and heir under the second will, and the security of \$20,000,000 contained in the safe deposit box was considered good. In the space of twenty-two years she has borrowed \$10,000,000, including one loan from the

bank of France. No one, however, ever saw the contents of the safe, because it was a condition of the agreement that the box should not be opened except in the presence of the Crawford nephews, who always were in America when wanted. In 1884, the creditors, noting that Marie did not marry, began dunning. Then Mme. Humbert produced a letter from the Crawfords in which they renounced their share of the fortune for a nominal consideration of \$60,000. This seemed to open the way for a complete settlement, but when Mme. Humbert was about to open the safe and take out the bonds the Crawfords, through their lawyer, raised legal obstacles and there began one of the most complicated chancery suits on record, which lasted until the present month. Decision after decision was rendered and appeal after appeal was entered in the highest courts in the famous suit over

## GREEN GABLES.



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